



COPS *Fact Sheet*

COMMUNITY ORIENTED POLICING SERVICES
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

www.cops.usdoj.gov

COPS Tribal Resources Grant Programs

Background

The Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) created a series of programs to meet the needs of law enforcement in Native American communities. These programs include the Tribal Resources Grant Program (TRGP), COPS Tribal Hiring Renewal Grant Program (THRGP), and Tribal Mental Health and Community Safety Initiative (TMHCSI). COPS Native American programs address quality-of-life issues as well as a comprehensive list of law enforcement expenses, including hiring and training new community policing officers, training existing forces, purchasing new equipment and vehicles, and more. COPS has awarded more than \$130 million since 1999 to help Native American communities, many of which have limited resources and suffer from high rates of crime and violence, hire more than 700 new community policing officers, including \$35 million in fiscal year 2002. TRGP grants help tribal communities enhance their law enforcement infrastructures and community policing efforts.

Funding Provisions

Grant requests should reflect the most serious law enforcement needs of an agency that are not funded with state, local, or Bureau of Indian Affairs funds and be linked to the implementation or enhancement of community policing. Funding provisions under TRGP include three years of entry-level salary and benefits for newly hired, additional police officers, as well as funding for law enforcement training, basic standard issue equipment, uniforms, department-wide technology, and police vehicles.

Additionally, funds are available for law enforcement training and equipment for existing officers depending on the needs of the department and subject to funding availability. Training includes basic and specialized police training at a state academy or the Indian Police Academy in Artesia, New Mexico, as well as community policing, grants management, and computer training.

Departments are also encouraged to request funding for other types of department-wide law enforcement equipment and technology such as police vehicles, computer hardware and software, mobile data terminals, and dispatch and communication systems. Each funding category contains a financial cap on the amount of funding available under a particular category. Tribes are encouraged to request equipment that will increase their ability to collect crime data.

TRGP covers a maximum federal share of 75 percent of total project costs, including approved salary and benefits of new, additional entry-level police officer positions (up to a maximum of \$75,000 per officer over three years), basic law enforcement training and equipment, vehicles, and technology. The program includes local cash match requirement of 25 percent of total project costs. Waivers of the local match requirement may be granted only on the basis of a documented demonstration of fiscal hardship. Waiver requests must be made at the time of application.

Initiative to Improve Law Enforcement in Tribal Communities

TRGP is part of a larger federal initiative. For the last four years, the Departments of Interior and Justice have worked in collaboration to improve law enforcement in tribal communities. For FY 2002, a total of \$122.3 million was appropriated to several Department of Justice (DOJ) agencies for this initiative, including the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), the Corrections Program Office (CPO), and the COPS Office. COPS coordinates with these agencies as well as with the Office of Law Enforcement Services of the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) to ensure that limited resources are not spent on duplicative efforts.

Requirements

Federal regulations require that financial assistance provided by the federal government be monitored to ensure that funds are used properly. In addition to the retention requirement, supplanting is prohibited under this program. Any use of TRGP funds is required to be in addition to, and not in lieu of, previous funding commitments for law enforcement staffing, training, and/or equipment.

Contact COPS

For more information on TRGP please contact the U.S. Department of Justice Response Center at 1.800.421.6770, or visit our web site at www.cops.usdoj.gov.